

Flit 'n' More

AUTUMN 2020

Well that was a summer we won't forget in a hurry, wasn't it? Now, very slowly, things are beginning to start up again in our villages, and like animals after hibernation we can start to venture outside, sniff the air and take a few unsteady steps, blinking in the light!

So if you fancy dipping a toe in the water, you will find details inside of various activities that are hoping to start up again. Of course by the time you read this it all may have changed again, so you will have to check with organisers if their events are still taking place, should the guidance change., and what Covid measures are in place.

There's definitely an air of new beginnings, though, and one of those is most definitely the great news that a new Vicar has been appointed! Yes, even in lockdown, though it was a struggle, and the Churchwardens

are to be congratulated for their hard work and tenacity in getting this through. There's a welcome article by the Rev David Payne on Page 6.

Sadly some things are still not back to normal; the church and village halls are re-opening very cautiously, and the three pubs are having to operate under very strict guidelines. There's a list of their opening hours and facilities on Page 11.

Angela Ayres
Co-Editor

The picture was taken last year for the Friends' Calendar and shows Jo's log store!

Would you be willing to be a Flit'n'More deliverer?

We would be very grateful if you could do a street or two? Please contact Pat (number on back page) if you are able to help. Its only 4 times a year!

From Your Parish Council...

Keep up to date with what's going on in Flitton, Greenfield and Wardhedges, especially during these unusual times...

Writing this in July I am really hoping that the changes that have happened so far, in terms of the virus, continue to be extended so that we gradually feel safer and slowly return to what we remember as our everyday lives. I appreciate that we may have to accept some changes; wear face coverings, be more active in cleansing surfaces and our hands and social distancing, but this is a small price to pay to keep the virus at bay.

Again, while I am writing this, the Parish Council is about to re-open the play and gym equipment and MUGA to play tennis. It may seem that we have strict terms and conditions, but we have to do this in order to comply with the Government guidelines. We have already allowed our football teams to resume training on the field and on Saturday 18th July the Government announced they are being allowed to resume grassroot football matches. The MUGA car park and playground are also open, although we are reserving our option to close facilities again in terms of either safety or the spread of the virus - so let's keep our fingers crossed.

I am aware that people in the community still do not feel they are being informed about what is going on and I must strongly advise everyone to log onto the new Parish website or even subscribe to it so you receive updates by email. We keep the website up to date and include all the news we get from Central Beds Council – so for instance Planning Appeal decisions, road closures and most of the news releases issued. This way you can keep right up to date with what is happening around you and not need to rely on social media to find out what is going on locally.

The website address is <https://flittonandgreenfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk/> and it does allow you to comment on news or articles. I realise that we have only had the new website since 1 April and there are probably a few changes we still want to make, but which have been held up by lockdown, but its working pretty well with all our agendas and minutes and so there is no excuse to say you do not know what is going on!

I also hope by the time you read this, we will have had our two new VE and VJ benches installed in Greenfield and Wardhedges. They are very nice structures and I hope you like them and enjoy a restful sit down whenever you are passing. We have also ordered a new double size notice board for Wardhedges, like the Flitton and Greenfield ones – so that we can get all the notices and news out in this part of the Parish too.

I am sorry we are not having a Gala this year, but I fully understand why and actually it gives our organisers a well-deserved year off. I feel as though I have been writing 'cancelled' in my diary against all the events we have come to love, but am glad that we may be thinking of new ways to hold events and allow people to get together socially. On this note, let me just add that the Parish Council has adapted to hold its meetings (continued overleaf...)



Services for Autumn at St John the Baptist Church

Welcome back to St John the Baptist Church!

We are at last able to start services, though they will be very different from before. You can **read all about the changes overleaf**, but please be assured that you can come safely, everyone is welcome and it will be lovely to see you all again.

For obvious reasons the timetable is subject to change so please always check our website www.3churches.uk, or Facebook@FlittonChurch, or keep an eye on the chalk board.

Sunday 6th September	11 am	Morning Worship , led by Gillian Kern
Sunday 13th September	9.30 am	Holy Communion , led by the Rev Julie Cox
Sunday 20th September	10.30— 11.30 am	Informal Church . Just come along for a chat from 10.30 to 11.30am. Bring your own thermos and food if you want to. We can be sociable at a safe distance. There will be a short reflection at 11am.
Sunday 27th September	8.30 am	Holy Communion . A short service from the Book of Common Prayer led by the Rev Anna Garvie.
Sunday 4th October	11 am	Harvest Festival led by Gillian Kern
Sunday 11th October	9.30 am	Holy Communion , led by the Rev Julie Cox
Sunday 17th October	10.30— 11.30 am	Informal Church —see above!
Sunday 25th October	11 am	Remembered with Love A very special service to remember family and friends who are no longer with us.
Sunday 1st November	11 am	Morning Worship , led by Gillian Kern
Sunday 8th November	10.45 am	Remembrance Sunday We are not yet sure of arrangements for this important service, but we will gather at 10.45, with the 2 minute silence at 11 am.
Sunday 15th November	10.30— 11.30 am	Informal Church , see above!
Sunday 22nd November	8.30 am	Holy Communion from the Book of Common Prayer, led by the Rev Anna Garvie
Sunday 29th November	10 am	Holy Communion for Advent Sunday , led by the Rev Anne Barker

on Zoom and we are pretty good at this now, receiving members of the public to talk and join in. If you would like to be part of this our calendar of meetings is shown on the website and the Clerk would be happy to send you the joining details for our meetings. I am pleased to be able to inform you all that the community orchard at Joes Close is developing very well and we think we have only lost one tree so far out of 37. We can always do with help to water and weed and if you want to get involved please do not hesitate to contact me. We may even get fruit and nuts next year and we do plan to install some picnic tables amongst the trees, which will soon all be beautifully labelled so you can see the varieties and types.

We are also thinking of allowing some of the verges throughout the Parish to be turned into wild flower areas instead of mowed grass. If you have any suggestions as to where this may work and not interfere with the footway or highway visibility, do please get in touch with us when we start to plan early next year.

Finally, I know there are still concerns throughout the Parish about speeding traffic. As I explained last time the Parish Council is neither the highway or the enforcing authority and so our influence is limited, but we are called upon as a funding authority and try to match fund a new scheme every year, apart from the current year as the scheme was postponed until 2021-22. We will start looking at this again in the late autumn if you want to contribute to the discussion. We are also very keen to increase our volunteer pool for the Speed watch scheme to make that even more effective too. The training has now been put on line, so new volunteers can get involved immediately maybe together we can have an influence over speeding drivers. Hoping everyone stays safe and healthy,

Best wishes

Mark Gates

Chairman of the Parish Council



Flitton Church News

The Benefice of Silsoe, Flitton and Pulloxhill

Growing as beacons of Christ's Light in our Communities



Church services at last!

We are delighted to be restarting services in the church from the beginning of September, although they will be very different from before. There can be no singing apart from one person but we will play recorded music for you to listen to; social distancing will be followed, which also means that there will be no exchanging of the Peace, and sadly we cannot have refreshments afterwards.

To begin with at least, the actual receiving of wine and wafers during Holy Communion will be restricted just to the priest officiating, but we hope to be able to receive wafers soon. However we will continue to hold Communion services, so that you can take part spiritually in this fundamental sacrament.

Come to Church in Safety

We have been very careful with our preparations for restarting services, so that you can attend with confidence:

Hand sanitizer is provided or you are welcome to bring your own.

Face Coverings are compulsory in churches, so please wear one.

Social distancing will be observed at all times, with restricted seating arrangements for your safety.

Test and trace protocols will be used, with contact details kept securely.

We realise that many people of all ages are still very wary and even scared of any social contact, but we have taken lots of measures to protect you while in the church. You can read the full risk assessment on our website www.3churches.uk

Helping your church St John the Baptist, Flitton

During this difficult time, with no fundraising activities possible, we struggle to meet our financial commitments. Please think about helping us by setting up a standing order or something similar online. We would be so grateful, as we are to those who have already done this.

Bank details:

Flitton Parochial Church Council

Sort code 20-92-54

Account Number 90239682

See Page 6 for some very exciting news...

It is with the greatest of pleasure that the Churchwardens can now confirm the appointment of our new Priest in Charge!

We are delighted to announce the appointment of the Reverend David Payne as the new incumbent in the benefice of Silsoe, Flitton and Pulloxhill. Here he is to introduce himself...



It's beginning to sink in that I've been invited to become your next Vicar, and Jo and I are very much looking forward to joining in your community. The experience of being recruited by Zoom meeting and socially-distanced interview seems slightly unreal, but in about ten weeks time we will be in Flitton in person and we have begun to pack.

So what can I tell you about the Paynes? I've been a Vicar for 25 years now, serving in villages and market towns in various parts of the country. I grew up in Peterborough (hence my unfortunate choice of football team) and met Jo, my wife while we were at university in Wales. We began married life in Bedford back in the last century, and my brother and his family still live locally. It will be good to return to the area and to the Diocese of St. Albans where I did some Vicaring until 2014. I enjoy long-distance walking, writing and the theatre, and my claim to fame is that I once worked on the Sooty Show – quite possibly the only Vicar in the Church of England to have done so.

Jo is a medical librarian by trade, who used to work at the L&D, but these days occupies herself with exam invigilation and various voluntary activities, including fundraising to refurbish a skate park in our current village and promoting fair trade. She plays the cello and in the lockdown has become a keener follower of crime drama than she intended.

We have two grown-up sons – Simon, who is married to Molly and lives in Lincoln, and Ben, who is about to begin a second year studying software engineering at Newcastle University. Simon is keen on anything to do with drama, whilst Ben offers a very reasonable dog-walking service when in residence.

My first priority in November is to appear in every street in my new patch and pray for those who live there. If you see me, please say hello, whether it's to introduce yourself, tell me my football team is rubbish or let me know what life in Flitton and Greenfield is really like. I'm looking forward to meeting you.

The Rev David Payne

FRIENDS OF FLITTON & GREENFIELD CHURCH

Christmas Card 2020

This year's card shows some of the lovely Advent Windows created by villagers in 2019.

The cards are 15x15cm, and come with envelopes in packs of 10, costing £10 per pack.

Please contact Angela on 01525 860723 or martandang@btinternet.com to place your order.

Please support the Friends, the church needs funds even more urgently this year.



Flower Arrangers Needed!



If you would be prepared to join the rota for arranging flowers in the church, please contact Lesley Arthur on 01525 713325.

You really REALLY don't have to offer anything fancy, a few blooms in a vase will always suffice. You can do it by yourself or join up with a friend? We have lost several loyal flower arrangers recently and that makes the burden heavier on those remaining. It's a nice, unthreatening, therapeutic thing to do...

Give it a go!

Great Parish Poppy Challenge



We are trying to get as many knitted or crocheted poppies as possible to display on Remembrance Sunday. Please join in and let's see how many we can get.

The poppies are red for the armed forces who have died in wars but also we would like some white poppies for civilian war deaths, purple for animals and blue for the NHS.

The poppies can be any size, any shade of red or the other colours and any pattern. There are lots of patterns and wool available online. The more we have, the bigger the display. They will all be stitched onto backing fabric and they will create a stunning display. The photo shows some Margaret has done already—there are lots more!

Linda Allsop

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Spring/Summer 2020 Pilates brought to you by Zoom

Group classes and one to one sessions available

Tuesdays 9.30am, 6.25pm and 7.30pm

Tuesdays Men Only Class 8.35pm

Wednesdays 10.00am and 11.45am

Thursdays 9.30am and 10.45am

NEVER done Pilates before?

Don't worry, give me a ring to discuss before you start

Charlotte 07801 367967 E:personallypilates@icloud.com

Pilates has many physical and mental health benefits
which can help us all at this time. Such as,

- ☒ Improve Posture
- ☒ Significantly increase core strength
while improving flexibility
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for more effective movement.
- ☒ Improve relaxation skills

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Get back to feeling great

Recent changes in exercise habits, abstinence from a regular fitness regime or a change in work environment, being forced to work from home and not having a properly designed office space, can all contribute to lower back pain. This can affect an individual's mood, create anxiety, depression and restrict activity leading to work absence. In the UK alone over 100 million workdays are lost per year due to non-specific low back pain.

Often lower back pain appears and then resolves itself within weeks, but the chances of reoccurrence are high. Chronic back pain can be due to numerous factors many of which are ignored, or which people are reluctant to change. It's difficult when our jobs or lifestyles result in many muscles which help support our spine and alignment being under used and as such become ineffective at doing the job in which they were intended.

Our posture is greatly affected, muscles in the front of the hips and shoulders become shortened, posterior muscles in our hips and back switch off and become weak and unable to support our body as they should. Maintaining good posture then becomes uncomfortable and hard work and so we give in to poor posture, muscle imbalances and resulting pain and discomfort. This leads to many forms of exercise becoming impossible or generating increased pain so we cease activity. Adopting core strengthening movements and gentle mobility exercises can improve stabilisation of the lumbar spine through strengthening the deep lying muscles, thereby improving range of movements without discomfort and prevention of future symptoms.

These exercises are crucial for not only individuals suffering with lower back pain but in preventing it happening in the first place, helping to readdress the imbalances caused by our lifestyles. As a fitness professional trained in many exercise methods - core strength, stability and mobility form the foundation for many forms of exercise and sports as well as being fundamental for good posture, improved well-being both physically and mentally. Having studied spinal conditions, Pilates and core strength my fitness classes are designed to help those with chronic lower back pain through to sports people looking to improve their performance. I'm here to help enhance your zest for life and get your body moving and feeling great!

Details of Nicola Rayner Fitness classes can be found on the adjacent page or by contacting fitone@live.co.uk - 07801 510988



New select and collect service for Central Bedfordshire libraries



Central Bedfordshire Council will be offering a new select and collect service at their twelve libraries from Tuesday, 11 August.

During the peak of the pandemic, as libraries across the country were closed, Central Bedfordshire Council's [virtual library](#) remained open and the range of online events and resources available to the public was expanded. To improve access to borrowing library book customers will be able to request, collect and return items at their local library, without entering the building. With Coronavirus still present in our communities this approach keeps both customers and staff safe whilst improving access.

Customers can order specific titles or ask the library staff to select a range of books from a particular genre, all for free. Books can be ordered online via the [virtual library](#) or by using the Bedfordshire Libraries app, which can be found on Google Play Store and Apple app store, by searching for 'Bedfordshire Libraries'.

If you do not have internet access you can place an order over the phone during opening hours by calling your local library. When the order is ready, residents will be contacted by email or letter, to let them know it's ready for collection.

The opening times for customers to be able to collect and return books will vary at each library. Customers are advised to visit the councils [website to check the times for their local library](#). Some local libraries' hours are below.

There will be signage at each library explaining to customers how to safely return their books, where they will be quarantined for four days before being available for reissue. This will help to safeguard staff and customers against the handling of items that someone else has touched.

A face covering must be worn when visiting the library. Pre-issued items will be brought to customers at the entrance to the library, after they confirm their name and the last four digits of their library card number. Residents are reminded not visit the library if they are unwell.

Opening hours of local libraries:

Ampt Hill

Telephone: 0300 300 8053

Monday - closed
Tuesday - 10am to 1pm
Wednesday - 10am to 1pm
Thursday - closed
Friday - 10am to 1pm
Saturday - 9am to 1pm
Sunday - closed

Barton-le-Clay

Telephone: 0300 300 8054

Monday - closed
Tuesday - 9:30am to 12:30pm
Wednesday - 12:30pm to 3:30pm
Thursday - 9:30am to 12:30pm
Friday - 12:30pm to 3:30pm
Saturday - 9:30am to 12:30pm
Sunday - closed

Flitwick

Telephone: 0300 300 8057

Monday - closed
Tuesday - 10am to 1pm
Wednesday - 10am to 1pm
Thursday - closed
Friday - 10am to 1pm
Saturday - 10am to 2pm
Sunday - closed

DON'T PARK ON THE PAVEMENTS!

Flit'n'More has received complaints from villagers about the problem of cars parking with their wheels obstructing the pavements. This is especially true of visitors to the village, and even more of contractors. This causes problems for those using mobility equipment or pushing buggies who are forced into the road, which can be quite dangerous. There is also little point in parking this way as the road through the village is still not wide enough for two cars to pass, so you may as well just park normally, as there are no restrictions on that!

HURRAH! ALL THREE PUBS ARE NOW OPEN, BUT OBVIOUSLY WITH A VERY DIFFERENT OFFER— HERE ARE THE CURRENT DETAILS!



The Jolly Coopers

The bar is now the restaurant, (bookings only)

The back room and garden are open with limited seating.

Bar open Mon -Thurs 12-8, Fri/Sat 12-9, Sun 12-7.30

Food; Restaurant 12-8, Garden 12-7, Sun 12-4

(NB Restaurant food orders take priority over food orders in garden and back bar)

The Compasses

Food; (restaurant and garden) Tues 5-9, Wed-Sat 12-3/5-9, Sun 12-6.

NB Booking advised as restaurant always busy.

Bar; Tues/Wed 5-10, Thurs/Fri 5-11, Sat garden only, Sun 12-7.30

The White Hart

Food and drink in marquee and garden only.

New 'Terrace' Menu. Bookings only.

Tues/Wed 12-3 and 6-11, Thurs/Fri 6-11, Sat 12-11, Sun 12-6

20% off Thurs food, 10% off Sunday Roasts.

Takeaway menu still available, also now alcoholic drinks to take away.

01525 862022

Now is a great time to 'eat out to help out' or just enjoy a drink in a (sunny??) pub garden. All our pubs are hanging on in there, like the rest of us, and working hard to keep you happy and safe. Enjoy!

Bedfordshire Natural History Society (BNHS) has just published this new book.

Twenty years ago BNHS published "Wild Bedfordshire" – a look at the then current state of the county's wildlife. This new book looks at all the same sites and many more new ones, and at the changes that have occurred.

It is full of excellent photographs by Richard Revels, and a fascinating insight into how our wildlife is changing with the effect of our warming climate. It features many fascinating sites which you may not know of and are worth visiting.

Cost is only £20 and I have a small stock & can deliver.

David Sedgley – 01525 714961

Or: dsedgley@talktalk.net



HEADLINES AMONG THE HEADSTONES



Would you like to "sponsor" a rose in memory of a loved one?

We are resurrecting the rose garden and want to restock with new plants.

You choose the colour and we plant later in the year.

Do you have any spare time to lend a hand in looking after the churchyard?

We are looking to establish a rota for cutting or strimming the grass, weeding flower beds and paths, arguing with ivy and nettles and general maintenance.

Clearly this is seasonal.

If either answer is yes, please contact Simon Sadler for further details

SILSOE DRAMA CLUB FUTURE PROGRAMME

It's obviously been a frustrating year for Silsoe Drama Club, but we are still here and making plans to be back with you as soon as we possibly can. To that end we have planned an ambitious programme for the end of this year and all through the next, which we very much hope to be able to bring to you.

Friday 11th and Saturday 12th December 2020—Silsoe Village Hall Festive Feast of Dramatic Titbits! (very much a working title...)

We can't rehearse a full show just now, so we are planning an evening of monologues, duologues and dramatic excerpts which we can rehearse in our own homes or even by zoom.

New members are always welcome, so if you would be interested in taking part in this varied evening, please contact the producer, Angela Ayres on 01525860723 or martandang@btinternet.com. If you are nursing a secret desire to get on stage, this could be a really gentle introduction as you will rehearse just with a director, we just put it all together at the last moment. You can choose your own piece to submit, or we can suggest one for you. You can choose your own director too, or we can find you one! Single actors or family duos can take part, of any age.

It's all very simple, we just HOPE we will be allowed to show it to an audience. Silsoe Village hall is booked, we will just have to wait and see...

Spring 2021 - Silsoe Village Hall

Cheshire Cats by Gail Young, directed by Mandy Reddick

This show was already in rehearsal when lockdown intervened, so we now plan to show it next spring. It's the story of six ladies who enter the Moonwalk, a marathon walk through London at night wearing fabulous bra-based costumes, all to raise money for breast cancer research. All the actors (and the director) have at one time been part of SDC's own Moonwalk team, stretching back many years. Don't miss it!

Summer 2021 - TBC

Golden Anniversary Extravaganza!

Watch this space for details of how we plan to celebrate 50 years of Silsoe Drama Club. Plans are afoot for a very special summer entertainment for members old and new, as well as all our friends and supporters over the years—yes, that's YOU!

December 2021 - Silsoe Village Hall

The Vicar of Dibley directed by Kim Canterford

Based on the hugely successful TV series by Richard Curtis and Paul Mayhew-Archer, the loveable Reverend Geraldine Granger is set to grace the stage of Silsoe Village Hall. Auditions for this great show will be announced later in 2021, so watch this space!

Let's all look forward to a great future with Silsoe Drama Club!



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Alice banks



ORCHARDS EAST

RECORDING CONSERVING CREATING

Orchards East, the three year Heritage Lottery funded project, has been extended to the end of the year. Part of the project, in partnership with Bedfordshire & Luton Orchards Group (BLOG), is to survey existing orchards. The survey data will be used to record the kind of orchards in existence as well as their significance as habitats for biodiversity and wildlife.

If anyone has any information about old orchards in the Parish, or even if you have a few fruit trees in your garden, we would like to know. For the purposes of this project just 5 fruit or nut trees in one area could constitute an Orchard.

A 'traditional' orchard is one with trees on pre WW2 rootstock. Even if you have one tree which might be this old we would like to know. We intend to survey & photograph those orchards we know of this autumn. Please let me know if you have trees which I've not yet spoken to you about or if you know of any which I may not know of.

For further information, please contact
dsedgley@talktalk.net or visit
the website www.orchardseast.org.uk
David Sedgley 01525 714961



"So, after agreeing to provide an insight into the local property market, the time has come to start what I am hoping will be an informative and interesting journey in the world of property! There are many property related matters to share with you but the most important change that may need your urgent attention is the STAMP DUTY HOLIDAY!"



Duane Savage - Director

Implemented on 8th July, this new legislation means that there is no Stamp Duty to pay on your main property purchase up to £500,000 and only the difference to pay if over £500,000. Buyers have been flooding back to the market to take advantage of potential savings of thousands of pounds and sales levels are on the increase. The scheme is only in place until the end of March 2021 and it is important to be mindful of just how long property transactions take and how easy it could be to miss out on the stamp duty holiday benefits. In real terms, a house purchase would need to be secured by the end of November to stand a fighting chance of benefitting from the saving as the industry average for the legal work is three months, and there will be the usual two week Christmas break to take into consideration.

Bearing the above in mind, I would suggest that the opportunity to find a buyer will be far higher in the next few weeks and therefore would urge any potential sellers to place their property on the market as soon as possible to take advantage of the increase in buyers. Nationwide, the house price index showed an annual increase of 1.5% in July. Transactions and mortgage approvals are up, giving positive signs that the property market is on the road to recovery.

Covid-19 has also caused many buyers to re-evaluate the most important factors to them when purchasing a new home with almost a third wanting to live in a rural area.

Flitton, Greenfield and Pulloxhill are the perfect destination for those wanting to escape the rat race as they offer all the benefits of village life and surrounding countryside whilst providing excellent road and rail links back into the city. Now is the perfect time to place your property on the market to take advantage of this increased activity!

A graphic with a light blue background and a white horizontal line. It features a cartoon illustration of a family (a man, a woman, and a child in a stroller) walking towards a house. The text is in a mix of bold and regular fonts, with the amount £500,000 in a large, bold, red font.

Buyers! Are you considering a move?

Save thousands of pounds by purchasing before March 2021

Pay no stamp duty on property purchases of up to

£500,000

Contact your local office to find out more.

COUNTRY PROPERTIES
— PART OF HUNTERS —
Flitwick

For more advice about the Stamp Duty Holiday or to book a free valuation of your home, please call our local team on
01525 721000



VJ DAY IN FLITTON — 15TH AUGUST

Even though we have been unable properly to mark the 75th anniversary of the final end to the Second World War, we remember the great sacrifice of life, military and civilian, in that dreadful conflict, and especially at this time we also remember those who survived but suffered life-changing trauma in that terrible theatre of war. Rosemary Brooks, a longtime Flitton resident, has kindly allowed us to print this excerpt from a letter she and her sister received at the time, which gives a unique picture of how the village celebrated the end of hostilities, and reminds us of an era long past.

"On Thursday night V.J. day the Flitton people had a bonfire right in the middle of the road, absolutely covering the sign post, and some one made an old man to go on the top they tied him to the top of the post. Sylvia stayed up to listen to the Kings speech, (did you.) Anyway, she went to sleep before they lit the bonfire. I had to shut the window because of the smoke but I did watch it for a bit. It was a lovely blaze and as soon as it was going well all the kids and ladies joined arms and danced round it, the wind kept blowing the flames across the road and they often had to stop, it was a wonder they didn't set that field of corn afire. "

The letter was written in the cottage next-but-one to Flitton church, and the bonfire was apparently in the road between the church and the church hall, which used to have a triangle of grass at the junction..., though it sounds as if the bonfire itself must have been a bit further out, as the cornfield adjacent to the hall was at risk! I wonder if the sign post survived? "

Flit Vale Wildlife Trust Summer 2020 Programme



Note that some of these events may not happen if still affected by corona virus – please phone to check.

Sunday 20th September

10.00am at Flitwick Moor car park

Fungal Foray – joint event with Herts & Beds Fungi Group..

Booking essential as places limited

Saturday 7th November

10.30am at Maulden Church car park

‘Geology walk’ – a fascinating insight into the rocks around us.

Led by Derek Turner – Beds Geology Group member.

Walks are £2 per person – children free.

Please contact Ann on 07580 178889 or flitvale.info@gmail.com

Flitton and Greenfield
Village Hall

**Retro
Line Dance
Class**

Cowboy boots
not required

Great exercise
for body and mind

Wednesday Afternoon
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Hello! If you are self-isolating, I can help.

It seems like a very long time ago that our team of over 40 volunteers distributed these postcards throughout Flitton and Greenfield. I know many of you have found it helpful to call on a neighbour for support, and that many more of you have been grateful just to know that support is available.

**Thank you Thank you Thank you Thank you
Thank you Thank you Thank you**

to all the volunteers who have distributed leaflets, collected prescriptions, dropped off shopping and helped in many other ways. What an amazing community we live in!

It seems to me that this crisis has emphasised the good in our community. Hopefully the spirit of "Help your Neighbour" will continue in good times and bad.

Stay safe, stay healthy, stay helpful!

If you have lost your neighbour's contact details please call Theresa 860279 and she can let you know your closest volunteer.



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Our team of DBS checked volunteers all live in the villages that we cover (Flitton, Greenfield, Pulloxhill and Wardhedges) and have a willingness to give up their time to assist others, something which has become ever more prevalent over the recent weeks. In fact, our usual 14 volunteers have over doubled by temporary volunteers who have joined us to assist with the increase in demand during this difficult period.

During the Coronavirus situation, we have been busy picking up prescriptions and getting shopping for residents who are self isolating. Normally, our main tasks involve providing lifts to medical appointments or to the shops, but with social distancing, this simply isn't possible at the moment.

There are several ways that you can get in touch with us. We have a dedicated mobile phone number which is manned 7 days a week (07594 578 741) and a Facebook page where you can send us a request for assistance through Facebook Messenger. We also have an email address where you can contact us (info@good-neighbours.org.uk).

Our group is funded by donations from those we assist and by the reasonable charges we make for lifts which covers the volunteer's fuel and a small donation to our scheme. We are also very fortunate that the Flitton & Greenfield Parish Council have made donations to our scheme to assist us in buying equipment needed and to help cover our modest running costs.

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(Strength class)

WEDNESDAY

Flitwick Lower School,
Temple Way 7:30pm

THURSDAY

Redborne School South
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SATURDAY

Flitton & Greenfield
Village Hall 9:30am



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Don't lose your voice!

Residents urged to check voter registration details by Central Bedfordshire Council



Local residents are being warned not to lose their voice, by making sure their electoral registration details are up to date.

With Police and Crime Commissioner elections taking place in Central Bedfordshire in May 2021, it is important for residents to make sure they can take part. The annual canvass ensures that CBC can keep the electoral register up to date, identifying any residents who are not registered or have recently moved. You will receive a letter addressed to the household from the beginning of August.

Richard Carr, Electoral Registration Officer said: "It's important that residents keep an eye out for messages from Central Bedfordshire Council, so we can make sure we have the right details on the electoral register for every address in our area.

"If you're not currently registered, your name will not appear in the messages we send. If you want to register, the easiest way is online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote, or we'll send you information explaining how to do this in the post.

"This year's canvass, which we have to carry out by law, is taking place during a challenging public health situation. We want everyone who is entitled to vote is able to do so. Making sure you provide the necessary information by electronic methods where possible will ensure the process runs smoothly. This is particularly helpful in the current situation, as it will help avoid the need for home visits from canvassers. "There's lots of helpful information about registering to vote on our website <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter>."

People who have moved recently are particularly encouraged to look out for the voter registration messages from Central Bedfordshire Council and check the details. Research by the Electoral Commission indicates that recent home movers are less likely to be registered than those who have lived at the same address for a long time. Across Great Britain, 92% of people who have been at their property for more than sixteen years will be registered, compared to 36% of people who have lived at an address for less than one year. Any residents who have any questions can contact their local registration team at Electoral.Registration@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

'Flit'n'More is published and distributed by the Parochial Church Council of St. John the Baptist, Flitton, and Flitton & Greenfield Parish Council. The editors are Jo Holt, jo_holt@sky.com and Angela Ayres, martandang@btinternet.com Please note that views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Editors or PCC. ADVERTISE YOUR EVENT/ORGANISATION IN FLIT 'N' MORE.... THAT'S WHAT IT'S THERE FOR! The next issue will be out in Dec 2020 for events up until February. Please contact Jo or Angela if you have something to publicise, or Simon on 861727 if you would like to advertise. Free for voluntary groups, very good rates for businesses.

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Village History *by Margaret Butt* **Lady Jane Grey**



There are two questions about local history which I am frequently asked. One is why the mausoleum is at Flitton and not Silsoe. That's because the parish was Flitton cum Silsoe and Silsoe did not have a church until early Victorian times, so Flitton was the church for both villages.

The other question is whether Lady Jane Grey was anything to do with Wrest Park.

The answer to that is there are family connections although there is no evidence that Lady Jane visited Wrest. The Anchetil de Grey family came to England with William the Conqueror, and by the early 15th century there were various branches, of which one, the Greys of Ruthin, became prominent. They were typical of the times – they held public offices, quarrelled amongst themselves and other barons, hoped to marry well and expand their land holdings, and occasionally produced a king's councillor or prominent churchman. This relative obscurity changed in 1464 and lasted for nearly 100 years..

Their power base was at Ruthin Castle in North Wales. Reginald, 3rd Lord Grey of Ruthin [1362 -1440] married twice. From his first wife, Margaret, came the branch of the family based at Wrest. From his second wife Joan, came the branch of Sir John Grey of Groby who married Elizabeth Woodville in 1453. Her mother was Jacquetta, Duchess of Bedford, whose first husband John of Lancaster was a brother of Henry V and uncle of Henry VI. Elizabeth Woodville's first husband, Sir John Grey, was a cousin of the 1st Earl de Grey who lived at Wrest Park. Sir John was a Lancastrian supporter as was his wife and family. They had 2 sons, Thomas and Richard. Sir John was killed in 1461 and Elizabeth was a widow until 1464 when she married Edward IV of England. He of course was a Yorkist, and so most of the Grey family changed sides.

As stepsons of Edward IV, Thomas and Richard gained land and titles. They fell from grace during the brief reign of Richard III 1483-1485 but as half brothers to Elizabeth of York, who married Henry VII, the Grey brothers had considerable influence at court, and later over Henry VIII. They had no royal blood but were trusted as members of the extended Tudor family.

Two of Elizabeth Woodville's sisters married the Greys at Wrest Park. Anne married George and became Countess of Kent. Joan married Anthony Grey who was the oldest son but predeceased his father. These marriages secured the family's loyalty to Edward IV and his heirs.

Thomas, eldest son of Sir John Grey and Elizabeth, was given the title Marquis of Dorset and his grandson, the 3rd Marquis [later Duke of Suffolk] was the closest male relative to Henry VIII apart from his son, Edward, who died after only a few years reign. Although Mary Tudor was the rightful heir, Lady Jane Grey, Suffolk's daughter, became queen as she was a Protestant. Jane was queen for 9 days before being arrested and executed by the supporters of the Catholic Queen Mary, as was her father.

Our branch of the De Greys kept out of the way and survived by always supporting the reigning monarch. They may not have had the same level of influence but managed to keep their lands and titles intact!



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Church Choir	Clare Butler-Ellis	861496
Bellringers	Jen Fisher	713917
Church Flowers	Lesley Arthur	713325
Friends of F & G Church	Jo Holt	792777
Parish Council	Debbie Lawson (Clerk)	clerk@flittongreenfield.org.uk
Village Hall Hire	Margaret Lowe	07938 965817
Church Hall Hire	Jill Chandler	860715
Bedfordshire Police	Amphill Team	01234 841212
Greenfield Lower School & Ducklings Pre-School	Head Teacher Mrs Debbie Drawbridge	712426
Good Neighbours	www.good-neighbours.org.uk	07594 578741
Scouts and Cubs	Badger Hill Scout Group	www.badgerhillscouts.org.uk
Stepping Stones Toddlers	Lisa Moore	07949 047990 or 721738
Brownies	Jane Staff	717294
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The Greensand Trust	Maulden Office	01234 743666
Potato Race	Simon Sadler	861727
The Mausoleum	Wrest Park: 01525 860000	www.english-heritage.org.uk
Amphill & Flitwick Flyers	Dave Sedgley	714961

IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR DETAILS ADDED TO OR DELETED FROM THIS LIST,

CONTACT THE EDITOR